in New Delhi by India and Bangladesh, the two Governments have agreed to "make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways, railways, and roadways for commerce beween the two countries and for the passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other". Such a provision has always been there in the trade agreements between the two countries starting from the first one signed in New Delhi on March 28, 1972.

(b) As a corollary to the above referred Article, the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh provides for transhipment of goods through and to Bangladesh through riverine route.

There is no transportation of goods permitted by railways and roadways between two places in one country through the territory of the other.

The Bilateral Trade Agreement provides for imports and exports of commodities and goods produced or manufactured in India or Bangladesh, as the case may be, in accordance with the import/export and foreign exchange regulations enforced in either country. There is no restriction on the trading of merchandise goods through the inland water routes.

(c) During the last year *viz.* 2005-06, the volume of bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh was US$ 1751.20 million and it is expected that during the current financial year *viz.* 2006-07, the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries would further increase. However, it is difficult to quantify the same at this stage.

Promotion to exporting firms

193. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Government's schemes to promote the exporting firms in the country;

(b) the funds allocated under these schemes during the last three years and thereafter, scheme-wise, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have done any review of these schemes;

(d) if so, when and the results thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by Government based on those results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no specific Scheme to promote the exporting firms in the country. However, some assistance is provided under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. Other Schemes for export promotion include Duty Neutralization schemes like DEPB, Advance Licence, duty concession Schemes like EPCG and Reward Schemes like Served from India, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme.

(b) Funds allocated under MDA and MAI Schemes during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	MDA Scheme	MAI Scheme
2003-04	52.00	30.00
2004-05	55.00	5.00
2005-06	55.00	18.00

There is no State-wise allocation of funds under MDA and MAI Schmes. Other Schemes operate through issue of scrips/authorization and no cash payments are made.

(c) to (e) These Schemes are reviewed periodically and necessay corrective measures are taken.

Permanent commission to women in Army

194. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give permanent commission to women in the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;